The Tri-Star Scholarship Program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, has received another boost, this time from Class of 1973 alumni Phil and Brenda Wenk. In October, they established the Phil and Brenda Wenk UT Knoxville Alumni Chapter Tri-Star Scholarship Endowment.

“Small gifts combine into larger ones, and so our motto is, ‘Give any way you can,’” Brenda says. “We established this endowment because UT provided the education that enabled us to reach a point in our lives where we can give back.”

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To learn how you can lend your long-term support for Vols, like the Wenks did, contact the Office of Gift Planning at 865-974-2370 or giftplanning@utk.edu.
The couple’s gift comes at a time when the Tri-Star Scholarship Program is expanding to serve more students. The university recently expanded its Flagship Scholarship program, which is part of the Tri-Star. Students at 38 Tennessee high schools are now eligible to have their tuition and mandatory fees at UT covered (when combined with the state’s HOPE Scholarship) for up to eight semesters.

One Tri-Star Scholarship Program recipient, Hayden Thornton, became part of the program when he was awarded the Memphis Alumni Chapter Scholarship. A freshman nursing major, Hayden says that despite the online learning that defined 2020, he felt instantly part of a community thanks to the local chapter alumnus who lived near him in Memphis.

“I felt completely surrounded and supported,” Hayden says. “When I was initially uncertain of whether or not we’d be on campus, one of the chapter representatives who lives nearby brought me a welcome gift with a bunch of UT apparel that made me feel so loved.”

This sense of camaraderie and inclusiveness is exactly what Phil and Brenda Wenk sought to foster with their gift. They pointed out that the need for financial aid goes well beyond tuition for many students, as does the need for a sense of belonging.

“UT Knoxville is where the adult phase of our life together began,” Brenda says. “Phil and I met there and were married during our junior year. After he completed dental school, everything in our lives revolved around UT football. Our two children were raised to be Vol fans. Our daughter, Andrea, was a Whittle scholar at UT, and our son, Alan, attended and would have likely graduated had cancer not interrupted his college years. Now we’re doing everything possible to influence our three grandchildren to want to be University of Tennessee Volunteers. And we proudly wear orange!”

SECURE THEIR FUTURE

When you create or update your estate plan, the needs of your family come first. Our new guide Your Loved Ones Are Counting on You covers how to create a plan with your parents, spouse, siblings, and children in mind. Use the enclosed reply form to request your copy today.
GIVE A GIFT THAT LASTS FOREVER
THE BENEFITS OF ENDOWED GIVING

Did you know you can ensure your support makes a difference for Volunteers not just this year, or next, but for years to come? You can—with an endowed gift. With an endowment, you plant the seeds for a legacy that will live in perpetuity and impact countless lives.

There are many ways you can make an endowed gift to UT. After all, this type of gift is more about what is done with the gift, rather than the type of gift itself. You make a gift to UT using:

- Cash
- Appreciated assets
- Real estate

The rest is invested, providing us with support indefinitely and allowing you to create a legacy that will live forever.

THE BENEFITS OF ENDOWED GIVING
Endowed gifts also play an important role in the sustainability of UT. They provide a solid base that can help us overcome tough economic times. These funds can also help us fill in funding gaps when they arise.

Endowed funds also help UT plan for the future. Having these funds available and growing allows us to move out of survival mode and help more students grow and become leaders in their field.

GROW YOUR LEGACY
An endowed gift allows you to plant the seeds for a legacy that will last for generations to come. Contact us to learn more about this type of giving.

It takes a noble person to plant a seed for a tree that will one day provide shade to those whom he may never meet.

—Unknown Author
If you ask your spouse or family member the value of their estate, you'll likely be met with a blank stare. This can make deciding exactly how much to leave your loved ones, and cherished institutions, difficult—especially because the value of your estate fluctuates throughout your lifetime.

Instead of leaving a specific amount to family or UT in your will or other estate document, consider leaving a percentage.

**HOW IT WORKS**

Leaving UT a percentage of your estate can be done in two simple ways: through a gift in your will or by naming us as a beneficiary of your retirement plan account or other assets. In just a few steps, you can make a lasting difference for future Vols.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Gift in Your Will</th>
<th>Naming UT as a Beneficiary</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact UT or return the enclosed reply form to request sample language you can use to make a gift.</td>
<td>Log on to your provider’s website.</td>
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<td><strong>2</strong></td>
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<td>Make an appointment with your attorney to create or update your will.</td>
<td>Update your beneficiary, including the percentage you’d like each to receive. Or, print the form and return it in the mail.</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong></td>
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<td>Notify us of your intention so we can thank you and ensure your gift is used as you intend.</td>
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**EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

At UT Knoxville, every gift makes a difference as we strive to change lives. Whether your gift is 1% or 100% of your estate, you can feel confident your legacy will endure for generations to come.